captioned, "Rs. 324 cr. diamonds smuggled in through forged REP licences" which appeared in Hindustan Times dated the 16th June, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and whether Government propose to unearth the nexus of interested persons and officials of DGFT; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. As a result of critical scrutiny of import documents including licences presented for clearances of rough diamonds in February, 2001 and detailed follow up investigations, Mumbai, Customs detected that four importing firms, namely M/s Deepali Exports, M/s Vijaybhav, M/s Pushpak Impex and M/s Vaibhav Exports had been indulging in tampering and forgery of import licences to get away with duty free imports of rough diamonds. Investigations have revealed that these firms have imported rough diamonds valued at Rs. 332 crores on the strength of S3 forged Replenishment Licences during the period January, 1999 to February, 2001. Rough Diamonds worth Rs. 5 crores have been seized and all the four Proprietors of the above said four firms have been arrested under the Customs Act, 1962.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Action against the four accused is underway under the Customs Act, 1962 and allied laws. No DGFT officials have been found involved in this case.

Admission of SC/ST students in Indian Diamond Institute

2451. VENBLE DHAMMAvTRTYO: Will ihe Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government decided to admit the students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of quota of seats reserved for this community in nil the educational/academic institutions as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the total numbr of seats offered in different faculties/disciplines/courses in the Indian Diamond Institute during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of students from SC/ST community among them and percentage as compared to the total seats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) The Policy of the Central Government

on reservations is that 15% seats in all courses is to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes (STs), by giving a relaxation of 5% of marks from the prescribed minimum qualifying level. As regards the Central Universities, Department of Secondary and Higher Education and University Grants Commission (UGC) are responsible for supervision and proper implementation of the reservation policies in these Universities. UGC has taken the following steps to ensure proper implementation of policy:

(i) Universities are reminded to adhere to Government policy in regard to reservation for SCs/STs.

(ii) SCs/STs Cells have been set up in Central Universities to safeguard interest of SCs/STs communities.

(iii) To ensure proper and effective implementation, periodic review meetings of Registrars of Central Universities are held by UGC.

Department of Secondary and Higher Education has set up a SC/ST Cell to ensure proper implementation of reservation policy in Central Universities.

(b) and (c) According to the information provided by the Indian Diamond Institute Surat, the number of seats available for various faculties/disciplines/ courses and the number of SC/ST students who took admission during the last three years are as under:

Year	Maximum capacity during the year	Total seats filled in during the year	Number of SC/ST candidates given admission	% age of SC/ST students to total No. of seats	% age of SC/ST students to the total No. of seats as were filled
1998-99	743	410	48	6.46	11.71
1999-2000	1065	524	51	4.78	9.73
2000-2001	1035	569	31	2.99	5.45

Committee for monitoring cheap imports

2452. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN A RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government, for setting up of a National